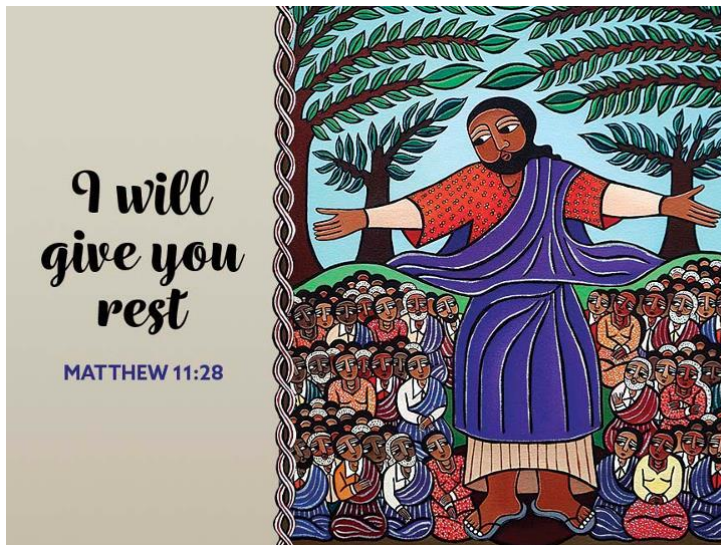




SUNDAY, JULY 5, 2026



Introduction

The mystery of God's ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. The prophet describes an everlasting realm that contrasts with earthly nations, one marked by peace, humility, and freedom. Jesus associates with those excluded from the religious community. Like Paul, we struggle with selfish desires; we lament flawed systems; and we seek God's mercy and forgiveness. We gather around word, water, and meal by Christ's invitation: "Come to me, all you that are weary." Here we find rest for our souls and hope for life in beloved community.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

We gather in the name of the Father, and of the **+** Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG

What An Awesome God

Mullins/Wickham/Smith

CCLI Song # 7255825

INVOCATION

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE



Ⓐ Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: Ⓞ Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:



Ⓐ Chri - ste e - le - i - son: Ⓞ Christ, have mer - cy.
Christ, have mer - cy:



Ⓐ Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: Ⓞ Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:

HYMN OF PRAISE

THIS IS MY SONG (ELW #887)



1 This is my song, O God of all the na - tions,
2 My coun - try's skies are blu - er than the o - cean,
3 This is my prayer, O God of all earth's king - doms,



a song of peace for lands a - far and mine.
and sun - light beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine.
your king - dom come; on earth your will be done.



This is my home, the coun - try where my heart is;
But oth - er lands have sun - light too, and clo - ver,
O God, be lift - ed up till all shall serve you,



here are my hopes, my dreams, my ho - ly shrine;
and skies are ev - 'ry - where as blue as mine.
and hearts u - nit - ed learn to live as one.



but oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are beat - ing
So hear my song, O God of all the na - tions,
So hear my prayer, O God of all the na - tions;



with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
a song of peace for their land and for mine.
my - self I give you; let your will be done.

Text: Lloyd Stone, 1912–1993, sts. 1–2; Georgia Harkness, 1891–1974, st. 3

Music: FINLANDIA, Jean Sibelius, 1865–1957

Text sts. 1–2 © 1934, 1962 Lorenz Publishing Company, st. 3 © 1964 Lorenz Publishing Company. All rights reserved.

Outside USA: Music © Breitkopf & Härtel, Wiesbaden.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord of all the worlds, guide this nation by your Spirit to go forward in justice and freedom. Give to all living in these lands the blessings of well-being and harmony, but above all things give us faith in you, that our nation may bring glory to your name and blessings to all peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

⁹Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. ¹⁰He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth.

¹¹As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. ¹²Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 11th Chapter. **Glory to You, O Lord.**

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] ¹⁶“To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, ¹⁷‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸“For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

²⁰Then he began to reproach the cities in which most of his deeds of power had been done because they did not repent. ²¹“Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. ²²But I tell you, on the day of judgment it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon than for you. ²³And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted

to heaven? No, you will be brought down to Hades. “For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. ²⁴ But I tell you that on the day of judgment it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom than for you.”

²⁵ At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶ yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸ “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ**

SERMON

MEL SIEBERT

HYMN OF THE DAY

Lord I need you
Christy Nockels / Daniel Carson, et al
CCLI Song #5925687

OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition will end with “God of grace” and the response will be “**Hear our prayer**”

SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

————— MEAL —————

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

OFFERING

Thank you for your continued generosity in supporting the ongoing ministry of Bethel Lutheran Church! In-person gifts may be placed in the offering plates, mailed to Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church (2077 N. Frederick Pike, Winchester, VA 22603), given online at www.bethelwinchester.com or using the adjacent QR code.



MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord**
Let us give thanks to the lord our god. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PREFACE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, you alone are Majesty, you alone are Excellency, you alone are Sovereign. Within the vast reaches you splashed into being, you formed our star and this planet: purple mountains, fruited plains, crystal waters, towering forests, gleaming mines.

Here you fashioned human beings in our infinite variety and hue, yet each one created equal, to care for one another and our earthly home.

In a time of peace enforced by the cruelty of empire, you came in Jesus to share our life. Born under the rule of a merciless king, Jesus revealed the merciful realm of God. Moving across borders to people broken and oppressed, Jesus brought healing, restoration, and freedom.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, Christ's execution at the hands of a ruthless regime, Christ's resurrection that buries death, Christ's ascension to rule with love forever, we declare the revolutionary mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

God, shed your grace on us. Shower your Holy Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine and on your people gathered this day. Ignite in us the flame of freedom— freedom from prejudice, from supremacy, from fear; freedom for acceptance, for welcome, for the shalom that you have first shown to us.

Faithful God, loving God:

Your Majesty shines forth in weakness. Your Excellency is revealed to infants.

Your Sovereignty reigns from a cross. Yours, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

is the everlasting kingdom, the peaceable power, and the humble glory, now and forever.

Amen.

JESUS WORDS ABOUT COMMUNION

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Citizens of the commonwealth of heaven: Taste and know that God is good to all.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

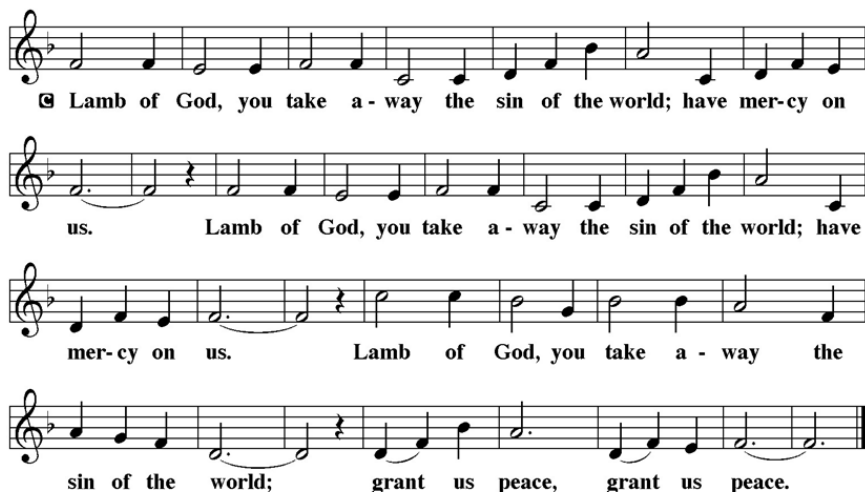
Welcome to the Lord's Table!

Everyone, regardless of age and denomination, is invited to join us for Holy Communion. If you prefer a blessing, simply inform the communion distributors. The ushers will direct your row when it is time to come forward.

You will receive the bread from the first Holy Communion distributor. You will pick up the cup of wine or juice from the tray held by the second distributor. For those who need gluten free a pre-packaged **gluten-free** wafer and a cup of **grape juice** is also available.

Once you have communed, you are invited to return to your seat for silent reflection or singing

LAMB OF GOD



☩ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS

OH BEAUTIFUL FOR SPACIOUS SKIES (ELW #888)



1 O beau - ti - ful for spa - cious skies, for am - ber waves of grain,
2 O beau - ti - ful for he - roes proved in lib - er - at - ing strife,
3 O beau - ti - ful for pa - triot dream that sees be - yond the years

for pur - ple moun-tain maj - es - ties a - bove the fruit-ed plain:
who more than self their coun-try loved, and mer - cy more than life:
thine al - a - bas - ter cit - ies gleam, un - dimmed by hu - man tears:

A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed his grace on thee,
A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! May God thy gold re - fine,
A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God mend thine ev - 'ry flaw,

and crown thy good with broth-er-hood from sea to shin-ing sea.
till all suc-cess be no - ble-ness, and ev - 'ry gain di - vine.
con - firm thy soul in self-con-trol, thy lib - er - ty in law.

GOD BLESS OUR NATIVE LAND (ELW #891)



1 God bless our na - tive land; firm may it ev - er stand
2 So shall our prayers a - rise to God a - bove the skies,



through storm and night. When the wild tem - pests rave, Rul - er of
on whom we wait. Thou who art ev - er nigh, guard - ing with



wind and wave, do thou our coun - try save by thy great might.
watch - ful eye, to thee a - loud we cry: God save the state!

Text: Charles T. Brooks, 1812–1883; John S. Dwight, 1813–1893
Music: NATIONAL ANTHEM, *Thesaurus Musicus*, London, 1744

COMMUNION BLESSING

We thank you, God of heaven and earth, that you fill our deepest need with the very gift of Jesus Christ, broken and poured out for us. Pour us out into a broken world. Channel our common life toward the common good, following the way our Savior leads us now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

BENEDICTION

The Author of life, the Word of salvation, the Breath of new birth, ✝ one God, bless you and equip you for living and serving, today and every day. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

Act Justly, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly

Chris Tomlin/Jason Ingram/Pat Barrett

CCLI Song #7168697

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Seek liberty and justice for all. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

We hope every person felt welcomed here, especially our guests. We trust that our time together has filled you with a sense of joy and peace, and we invite you to return soon.

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